



**ANNUAL REPORT
2022**



TOGETHER, we
PLAN
INNOVATE
PROMOTE

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[Cover Photo: Riverfront Boardwalk, Haverhill, MA](#)

The downtown boardwalk stretches from Harbor Place to Washington Square. Picture on the cover is looking east to the Basiliere Bridge.

A Message from our Leadership



Robert Snow
Chairman



Jerrard Whitten
Executive Director

As we reflect, 2022 will be remembered as a very successful year at Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. During the year we experienced many highlights and accomplishments as well as enduring contemplative and reflective periods while we celebrated the retirement of several long tenured staff. More than ever, the Commission worked and partnered with communities across the valley to develop and implement strategies aimed at “promoting the sustained and orderly growth of the region” – our mission, as established by the state legislature in 1959, that still holds true today.

One of the primary focus areas of our work during the year is guided by our role as the Economic Development District for the Merrimack Valley. Within this role, MVPC’s Community and Economic Development Program launched the 5-year update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This broad-reaching comprehensive plan articulates the current state of the economy and outlines priority actions to continue to support the sustained economic growth of the region. Each of the agency’s four program areas contribute to this plan which quantifies population dynamics and identifies income and housing trends with the goal of developing strategies to promote responsible growth. With greater knowledge of the sensitivity of our environment and threats to the region’s most prominent natural resource, the Merrimack River, our work is always conducted with an awareness of the importance of preserving the environmental health of the region. Through proactive planning, subject matter expertise and effective relationship building, MVPC staff secured more grant funding than any other previous year in history. These funding opportunities have created new channels through which Commission services can add capacity and planning assistance to each of the municipalities in the region allowing us to focus on the pressing issues of growth, housing availability, climate resilience and stewardship of our natural resources all while ensuring the equitable distribution of state and federal investments.

There is an energy at MVPC these days as it’s an exciting time to be a planner in the Merrimack Valley. A myriad of challenges exist that require creative, thought-based solutions. Fortunately, the agency has a gifted staff who are passionate about their work and the advancement of the region. As our attention focuses on 2023, we are guided by our mission to champion the Merrimack Valley and all its assets, and proudly look forward to serving the region in the year to come.

About the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

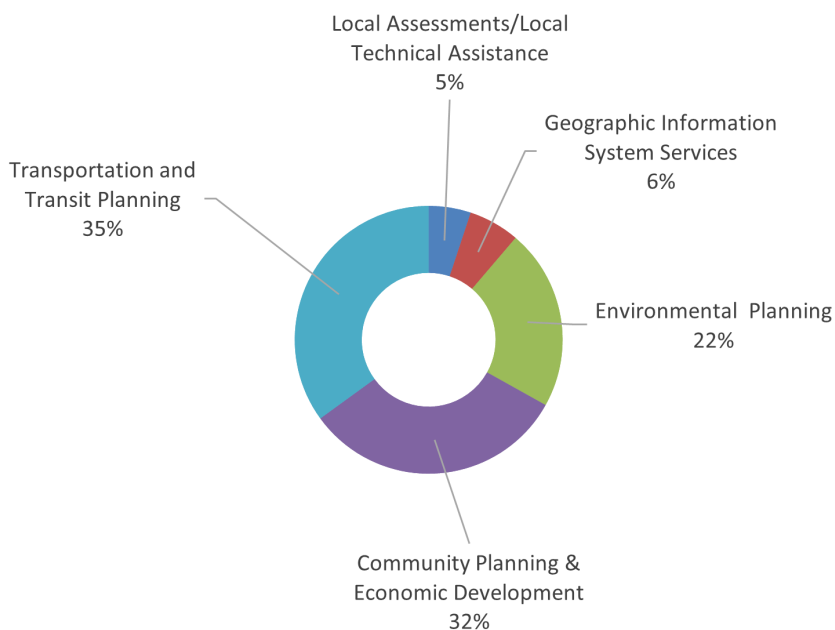
The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) is a regional planning agency created in 1959 with a goal of consistently planning, developing, and promoting not only the sustainable development of the Merrimack Valley through responsible and efficient use of regional resources, but to also rally and unify the communities to perpetuate the region's vision. A 16-member Board of Commissioners governs the MVPC, which serves 15 member communities, including the cities of Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen and Newburyport, and the towns of Andover, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury, along with one representative for the minority population in the Valley. For more information about MVPC please visit our website mvpc.org.

Our Mission

The Mission of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is to foster a cooperative effort among its communities in resolving common, regional problems, to allow its communities to plan jointly, and to promote with the greatest efficiency and economy the coordinated and orderly development of the region and the general welfare of its residents.

Finance Administration

Funding Areas in Fiscal Year 2022



Distribution of Funds

MVPC's operating funds for FY2022 supported a broad range of planning and technical services in the five major functional areas shown in the figure to the left.

95% of our budget comes from a variety of largely non-local sources, including state and federal grants as well as contracts with selected non-profit organizations and businesses that support MVPC's mission. Local assessments to our member communities make up the remaining 5%.

MVPC used these local funds as a match to leverage the 95% of outside funding brought into the region by the MVPC staff.

Independent Audit

The FY2022 independent single audit of MVPC's financial statements has been completed. Audited statements show MVPC expenditures to be within the budget with a positive operating fund balance.

Community & Economic Development Program

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission proudly serves as an Economic Development District (EDD) for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. EDA is the main economic development agency of the federal government and works with EDDs throughout the country to promote regional cooperation and job growth. In this role, MVPC is the designated liaison between EDA and our constituent communities.

As an essential partner in economic development initiatives across the region, MVPC accesses and manages funds from the EDA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other stakeholders to cultivate a prosperous, inclusive, and thriving region. MVPC's Community and Economic Development Program works with its municipal stakeholders to formulate a common vision for the future, identify priority projects, and align investment for those projects. Two examples of these are the regional [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (CEDS) and the tri-community [Targeted Economic Development Strategy](#) (TEDS).

Regional Economic Development Organization



Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll with Jerrard Whitten and Ian Burns at a small business roundtable in Haverhill

Thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD), MVPC has been designated as the Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) for the 15 cities and towns that make up the region. With this new designation, MVPC will be responsible for developing and executing on strategies that grow the regional economy and strengthen local businesses.

MVPC's REDO designation grew out of its 60 years of service as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the region. This commitment includes development and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Merrimack Valley, and its more recent EDA CARES Small Business Technical Assistance program and Targeted Economic Development Strategy (TEDS) program based in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover funded through the Greater Lawrence Disaster Relief Fund at the Essex County Community Foundation.

Specifically, the year-long TEDS pilot project, successfully produced an assembly of critical workforce data; created educational programming that directly addressed issues revealed by the data; and fostered critical outreach to large employers in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, IT services, advanced textiles and finance – five key industry clusters in the region. This outreach and engagement not only helped MVPC understand common challenges faced by businesses in the region, but it also opened up critical lines of communication between the businesses and municipalities.

MVPC was awarded the REDO grant in January of 2022 and used the funding to grow and expand the work started during the 2021 pilot phase. Staff will continue to prioritize key industry clusters as the organization expands its outreach to all 15 communities. The funding was also used to maintain and improve WeAreMV.com, the marketing and resource website built to serve as a one-stop shop for business assistance – including a database of available commercial and retail space – and increase access to local, state and federal resources for local businesses.

After a successful first year with REDO designation in 2022, MOBD awarded MVPC another round of REDO funding at the end of 2022 for FY23.

MV Strong Continues and Expands

From 2021 through 2022, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, through the CARES Act, funded MV Strong—a regional small business technical assistance program. As this funding reached an end in 2022, MVPC pursued new funding through the Eastern Bank Foundation to keep this program operating. In 2022, with partners Small Business Strong and Mill Cities Community Investments, MV Strong assisted over 280 small businesses, 90% of which were women or minority owned.

Thanks to extensive efforts from MVPC and its partners, the Eastern Bank Foundation awarded MVPC a grant to continue and expand the program. This second iteration of MV Strong will not only continue free technical assistance, but will offer a cohort program to assist women and minority owned businesses with becoming certified as women or minority owned.



This certification makes these businesses more competitive when bidding for public or private contracts, helping agencies and organizations reach their goals of diversifying their suppliers. In addition to certification, the program will help to guide businesses through the process of bidding for a contract with a large institution, aiming to demystify the contracting process.

MVPC Launches 2023-2038 CEDS Planning Process



The CEDS Committee meets in Lawrence to kick off the process in August

During the summer of 2022, MVPC launched the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning process in partnership with public and private economic development stakeholders from across the region. The creation of a 5-year CEDS is part of MVPC's work as an Economic Development District (EDD), as designated by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS serves as the vehicle for prioritizing federal investment in the region via EDA, and the resulting plan will be used to guide local and regional projects to support the Merrimack Valley's economic growth.

The CEDS Planning Committee is a dynamic group comprised of regional stakeholders across economic sectors, including municipal planning staff, business owners, cultural organizations, nonprofit community organizations, and workforce development organizations. Through the second half of 2022, the CEDS committee analyzed current economic data, conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the region, and began to draft the key pillars for the CEDS. To learn more about the CEDS, visit the Economic Development page on our website. This process will be complete by the end of June 2023, and the final document will outline key pillars, objectives, strategies, and priority projects that will be used to strengthen the region's economy over the next 5 years.

MBTA Communities Assistance



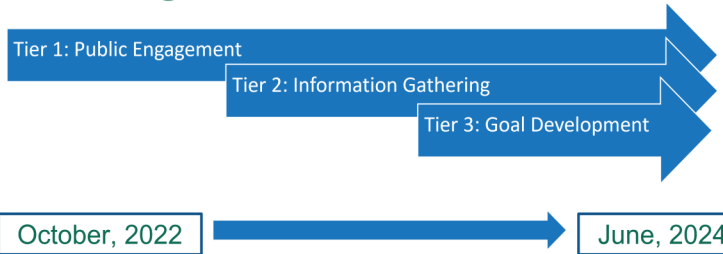
The legislation aims to increase the stock of “missing middle” housing

In 2022, the state’s Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) released guidelines for compliance with a new statute that requires each city and town within the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority’s (MBTA) service area to have at least one zoning district where multifamily housing is allowed by right. All 15 Merrimack Valley cities and towns are subject to this law—depending on their level of access to MBTA service, some are required to zone for more multifamily unit capacity than others.

With this new mandate, MVPC launched an extensive effort to assist city and town staff across the region with achieving compliance. MVPC staff held multiple meetings with planners across the region, and presented to the Mayors, Managers, and Administrators coalition on the topic. Not only has MVPC worked to help local governments comply, but staff have also worked closely with DHCD to address concerns raised by local officials. Towards the end of 2022 and into the beginning of 2023, MVPC assisted municipal staff with completion of DHCD’s “Action Plan,” which details how communities will reach compliance. Looking ahead to 2023, MVPC’s Community & Economic Development Department will continue to work side by side with municipal staff, ensuring each community is able to reach compliance by their deadline, either at the end of 2024 or 2025 depending on community size.

Housing Production Plan updates for all 15 Merrimack Valley Communities

Housing Production Plan Process



In 2022, MVPC was awarded funds to revamp and update the region’s existing portfolio of municipal Housing Production Plans (HPP). These city and town HPPs will provide strategies to implement tools aimed at reducing the burden of rent and homeownership for residents of the region.

Through a competitive grant application process, MVPC received funding from the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). This funding will allow MVPC to work with all cities and towns across the Merrimack Valley—updating their current plans created in 2018.

The housing production plans will analyze current housing and demographic conditions in each city and town and make recommendations for future changes based on housing needs. The planning process involves extensive public engagement efforts to gather input on the existing housing landscapes of each municipality, paired with an update of existing housing data. The HPPs will provide recommendations for how cities and towns can increase both their affordable housing stock and housing of all types—from rental to ownership.

All Merrimack Valley municipalities currently have a state approved HPP produced in 2018, but these are set to expire over the next 18 months. In 2018 the Merrimack Valley region was the first in the state to have HPPs across all cities and towns, and MVPC aims to continue that success with this update project. The work kicked off in 2022, and the bulk of the planning and engagement will occur throughout 2023 into 2024.

Environmental Program

Hazard Mitigation Planning



Newbury's Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team at a Hazard Mitigation workshop

The Merrimack Valley Region created its first Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2008. This was a comprehensive effort to identify risks occurring from natural hazards in our region and develop mitigation strategies and action plans to mitigate risk and reduce the loss of life and property. The formal process of hazard mitigation planning emerged as part of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which amended the earlier Stafford Act by establishing a national program for pre-disaster mitigation. As part of this act, all municipalities are required to have a FEMA-approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and to ensure that the plan stays relevant and active by conducting a plan update every 5 years. With our last regional update in 2016, the Merrimack Valley is re-engaging in the planning process. To support this effort, the City of Lawrence applied for and received a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant from FEMA/MEMA on behalf of the region.

In December, MVPC held a formal Kick-Off event in which representatives from each of the ten participating communities were in attendance. This event was held virtually and had over 45 participants, including representation from the Massachusetts's Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Material presented provided an overview of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program, benefits and opportunities which accompany a compliant plan, and detailed information about the update process. Following the kick-off, each community reconvened their Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Teams (LHMPTs) and elected one member to be the Lead Representative to support local efforts. As we look ahead to 2023, we are excited to continue taking strides in the hazard mitigation plan update process with each of the ten participating communities.

MVPC Conducts Bylaw Review for Stormwater Mitigation

In 2022 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded MVPC funding through the MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program to work with North Shore communities to review municipal zoning bylaws and regulatory ordinances in an effort to reduce stormwater runoff during and after construction activities.

MVPC partnered with Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) and Greenscapes North Shore Coalition to assist 29 North Shore communities, including the 15 municipalities within the MVPC region, in this work. The overarching goal of this project was to conduct a review of municipal ordinances to assess their effectiveness in mitigating stormwater runoff. The bylaw review specifically addressed how street and parking lot design match federal stormwater requirements, but also explored the reduction of impervious surfaces and promoted the implementation of LID principles (Low impact development). This review was a year 4 requirement under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) MS4 General Permit. To complete project tasks, MVPC, IRWA, and Greenscapes staff utilized the recently released *MassAudubon Bylaw Review for LID & Climate-Smart, Nature-Based Solutions* tool to identify best practices in reducing impervious areas and implementing LID. Using the results from *Mass Audubon's Bylaw Review* toolkit, the project team provided recommended bylaw changes for each municipality within the project area.



Example of green stormwater infrastructure

This effort provided communities with guidance and language to implement policies that will directly reduce stormwater runoff, moving the Merrimack Valley towards a more resilient future while improving compliance with regulations and ultimately reducing costs to communities.

Regional Energy Planning Assistance in the Merrimack Valley



MVPC is excited to share another successful year under the Department of Energy Resources Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) grant. This grant funds clean energy oriented efforts in the Valley, including net zero planning work and electric vehicle charging visioning. Additionally, this work directly aids communities with a Green Community designation to complete their annual reporting, maintain data on electric usage in the municipality, and seek competitive grant dollars to retrofit municipal structures with energy efficiencies. This grant also supports communities not yet designated as a Green Community in becoming one. To earn this designation, municipalities must commit to reducing their energy consumption amounting to savings of 86,875 MMBtu's in five years – the equivalent to heating and powering nearly 673 homes, and reducing GHG emissions of 5,804 tons – the equivalent to taking 1,222 cars off the road. This year, MVPC successfully aided six communities in annual reporting, two communities in competitive grant fund procurement, five communities with net zero planning, and one community in pursuing a Green Community designation. MVPC also worked with National Grid to connect municipalities with their free Fleet Electrification program which aids communities in planning for electric vehicle purchases, and worked to develop a GIS based analysis to identify ideal areas in the region to pursue EV charging station implementation.

Merrimack River Collaborative

The Merrimack River is a coveted natural resource, connecting and defining communities throughout Northeastern Massachusetts and serving as a source of cultural, ecological, and recreational value for all who engage in its many uses. However, the interconnected nature of this resource also ensures that degradation in one location can have impacts at a regional level. The Merrimack River has a long history of flourishing commerce, trade, and economic growth with its roots in the Industrial Revolution. However, due to limited knowledge on protections against illicit discharges, the revolution inadvertently caused pollution and degradation of the river. In recognition of this degradation, the Clean Water Act of the early 1970s was passed, which banned untreated sewage from entering the Merrimack River and established Wastewater Treatment facilities along the river, improving water quality significantly.



Aerial photo of the Merrimack River

Wastewater Treatment facilities did not solve all water quality problems associated with the river. The combined sewer design of these facilities allowed for the proliferation of Combined Sewage Overflow events (CSOs) -instances during heavy rainfall when the volume of sewage and rain exceeds system capacity, causing untreated stormwater and wastewater to discharge directly into the river. Other emergent pollutants, including microplastics and PFAs, also continue to pose a threat to the river's water quality and the health of those who interface with it.

The Merrimack River Collaborative (MRC) is a community based group composed of municipal officials, state legislators, and subject matter experts, spearheading the improvement of water quality and the revitalization of the Merrimack River. Led by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, the Merrimack River Watershed Council, and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, this group intends to be a clearinghouse of knowledge, data, resources, and funding opportunities related to the river's water quality. MVPC is pursuing legislation which will formalize the Merrimack River Collaborative and support their ongoing efforts to coordinate the monitoring and improvement of water quality along the Merrimack River to enhance the health of river adjacent communities. The MRC represents the communities of Amesbury, Andover, Dracut, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Salisbury, Tewksbury, and West Newbury and will connect them with funding sources, application support, public education, pertinent data, and a space to work towards regional solutions to water quality related issues.

MVPC Brownfields Program - over 15 Years in the Making



Amesbury Visitors Center

MVPC Receives 1.5 Million Dollars in Brownfields Funding

In 2022, MVPC was selected to receive \$1.5 million in assessment and Revolving Loan funds (RLF) from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program. This funding comes as a direct result of President Biden's bipartisan congressional action to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which invests more than \$1.5 billion into the EPA's Brownfields Program.

Brownfields are properties that are typically abandoned and for sale or lease, whose redevelopment is compromised by the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Due to the complications surrounding their redevelopment, these sites are often unattractive to developers and difficult to reuse. The EPA's Brownfields Program, established in 1995, works to remove the barriers to Brownfield reuse by empowering states, communities, and other stakeholders with the tools necessary to assess, clean up, and reuse these locations. Often, these funds help build community resources including local businesses, multi-family housing, and open space. This assistance comes, among other avenues, from Assessment grants which supply money to communities to assess the necessary cleanup of a Brownfields site, and Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) which are grants and low-interest loans provided to communities to pursue clean up and reuse endeavors.

Since MVPC began participating in the Brownfields program almost 20 years ago, it has funded numerous impactful efforts through its EPA granted assessment and RLF programs. These include Newburyport's Clipper City Rail Trail, Coastal Metals in Merrimac, Heritage Park and Riverwalk in Amesbury, 29 Elm

Street in Salisbury, Hooker Howe/Webster Building in Haverhill, and the Oxford Paper site in Lawrence. Now, with the help of these newly received funds, MVPC looks forward to funding more Brownfield site endeavors than ever before, ultimately leading the Merrimack Valley towards an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

Committed to Cleanup: MVPC's Brownfields Roadshow in Action

In October of 2022, MVPC officially received a reinstatement of Brownfields funds to assist with the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites throughout the region. In an effort to ensure these funds are used in the most impactful way throughout the Merrimack Valley, MVPC environmental staff and their Brownfields consultants Crede Associates began an exciting new endeavor deemed the Brownfields "Roadshow". This roadshow, consisting of in-person Brownfields site tours and discussions on project prioritization, provided an opportunity for MVPC staff to connect with municipal leaders and coalesce the region's Brownfield's project priorities.

Thus far, MVPC staff have pursued these tours in the cities of Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, and Amesbury. Joined by each of the City's Mayors and their staff, this work has facilitated a reinvigoration of Brownfields project pursuits in the region. Moving forward, MVPC staff look forward to expanding this roadshow effort to all MVPC municipalities and working to fund the priority Brownfields projects which result from this effort. This work is an essential step in the redevelopment of the region's Brownfields sites into economically and socially beneficial uses.



Brownfields Roadshow in Lawrence

Coastal Restoration Work in the Great Marsh

Since 1993, MVPC has hosted the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership (MassBays) Upper North Shore Regional Coordinator (RC). The RC's focus is on the restoration and protection of coastal waters and associated watersheds on the upper north shore of Massachusetts Bay. Over the years, the RC has built dynamic collaborations across the north shore, and worked in partnership to tackle a variety of initiatives to reach this broad goal. During 2022 the RC, Peter Phippen along with the new incoming RC, Hanna Mogensen, worked to advance restoration efforts including:

Invasive Species Management: With support from local organizations and volunteers, the RC completed seasonal monitoring for the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Marine Invasive Species Program to forward the protection of the Great Marsh. Rapid assessments of marine invasives were conducted monthly from May-September at five locations within the region (Ipswich, Essex, Gloucester, and Rockport). At each site, organisms from docks and dock lines were removed and inspected to identify a range of marine invasive species and their abundance. In addition to marine invasives, the RC partnered with Mass Audubon and the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge to monitor and manage invasive plant species including Perennial Pepperweed and Phragmites across the Great Marsh.



Monitoring of marine invasive species



Restored eelgrass bed in Essex Bay.

Native Species Restoration: In collaboration with Boston University, the RC conducted eelgrass planting at multiple locations in Essex Bay and Plum Island Sound during the summer and fall of 2022. Eelgrass is a seagrass that grows within the subtidal zone and provides a range of ecosystem services (including coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and nursery habitat). By partnering with the UMass Marine Center in Gloucester, a new system was established to over-summer reproductive eelgrass shoots for seeding later in the season. The RC also assisted with dune planting in locations across Salisbury and Plum Island with the University of New Hampshire to bolster natural resiliency of coastal beaches.

Marsh Health in the Face of Sea Level Rise: With rising sea levels and changing climate impacting our coastal ecosystems, the RC monitored changes in marsh habitat with collaborators from Boston University and the University of New Hampshire, through assessing marsh edge erosion, wrack mapping, and marsh die-off. Monitoring is essential to understanding the impact that changing conditions are having on this unique and critical habitat. In addition to monitoring, the RC

also collaborated with groups from the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Mass Audubon, and the University of New Hampshire to explore innovative restoration methods including runneling, ditch remediation, and thin layer placement.

Microplastics Monitoring: Microplastics, or small plastic particles less than 5mm in size, have been found everywhere in our environment, including at our beaches and in our coastal waters. To better understand the presence and abundance of microplastics in our local environment, the RC has continued to collect surface water samples and beach samples from across the upper north shore, and has partnered with Northern Essex Community College and the University of New Hampshire to process samples. This ongoing study allows MVPC to obtain baseline information on microplastics and track changes over time.



Microplastic sample collection in Essex Bay

Through these projects and others, supported by a network of collaborators and funded by the MassBays National Estuary Partnership, Department of Marine Fisheries, and National Wildlife Federation, the RC was able to close out another successful field season in the Great Marsh, working collaboratively to better understand, protect, and restore our critical coastal habitats.

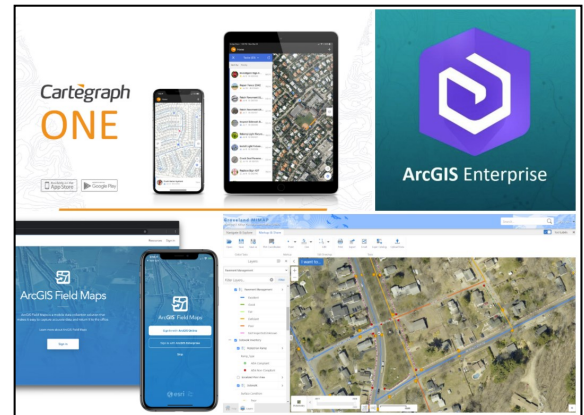
Geographic Information Systems Program

Supporting Communities Through Innovation

MVPC's GIS Program continues to use available technologies to expand and grow its mapping and data offerings to municipal staff, MVPC staff, state and local partners, and the public. By utilizing the Esri platform, we continue to develop online resources to assist with asset management, local and regional planning, and educational initiatives. Throughout 2022, GIS staff continued to develop StoryMaps, Experiences and mobile applications that support the management of GIS data in a collaborative environment.

GIS Ecosystem

MVPC GIS staff furthered development of its technology-centric GIS ecosystem during 2022. Through a centralized GIS repository all end users access the same GIS data across multiple platforms providing an efficient means for sharing and analyzing GIS data. This has allowed for the expansion of integrations with 3rd party applications such as computer maintenance management systems, permit tracking software and pavement management software. Additionally, municipally contracted consultants such as catch basin cleaning crews and food access partners can use their expertise to manage and update data that will be available to all users in real time.



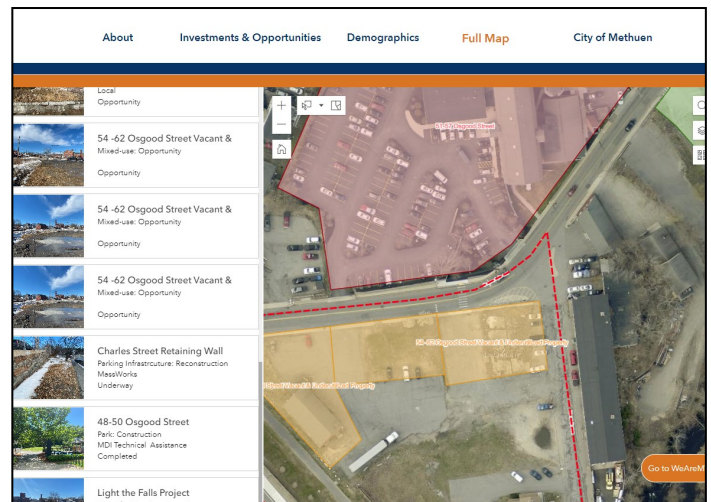
GIS data can be accessed across multiple platforms while being derived from the same location

Story Maps and Experiences

Maps provide valuable information, but there are often times where a story can enhance the context of the information being presented. Using both Esri StoryMaps and Esri Experience Builder, MVPC staff continue to develop educational and interactive resources for its member communities and residents. Accessing the GIS Ecosystem allows all MVPC staff the ability to access GIS data to tell the story through their



Experience for the City of Methuen Downtown Investment Guide (top right). StoryMap of food security in the City of Lawrence (bottom left)



areas of expertise, while the GIS Program delivers the technology resources to assist in the resource development. Examples include the Community and Economic Development proof of concept Experience for the City of Methuen Downtown Investment Guide and the Transportation Program utilized StoryMaps to produce an educational resource for food security in the City of Lawrence. Additionally the GIS Program provided technical expertise to the Newburyport Climate Resiliency Committee for the development of a StoryMap, leveraging existing MVPC data.

Statewide Trail Mapping Effort



Regional trails play an important role in the lives of the region's citizens

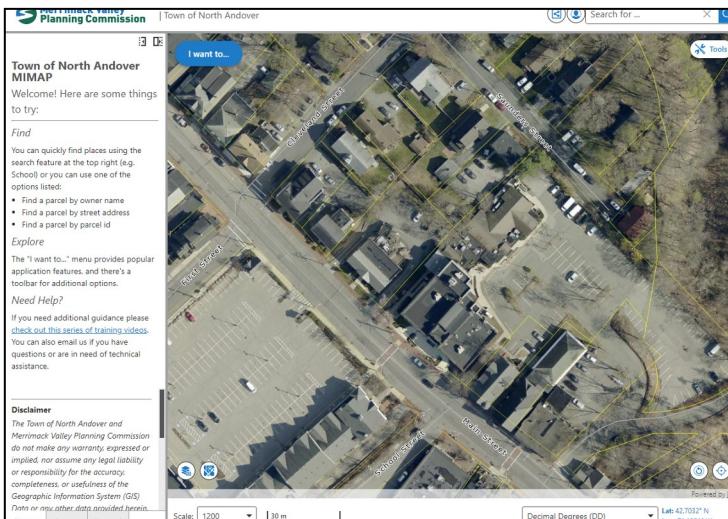
The Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) was awarded a MassTrails Grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to work on developing a statewide trails layer to be made available to municipalities and the general public. MVPC along with the State's other 12 RPAs participated in several meetings to discuss the status of the trail's networks in their respective regions. Effort is being made to identify important information to maintain in the trails data and determine who the target audience will be. MARPA has applied for a second round of funding to continue the work in FY24.

Aerial Imagery

MVPC has contracted with EagleView, an aerial imagery acquisition firm to secure imagery for the Merrimack Valley. Imagery will be captured in the Spring of 2023, marking over 20 years of historic imagery that is available to our communities for their planning needs. This imagery will capture highly detailed top down (ortho) and side angle (oblique) imagery for the entire MVPC region. This contract will represent a significant savings for the flyover when compared to previous flights, while providing the highest quality imagery that has been made available to the region.



High resolution imagery helps municipal staff plan more effectively and efficiently



MIMAP pulls GIS data from multiple sources to provide a centralized location for learning more about community

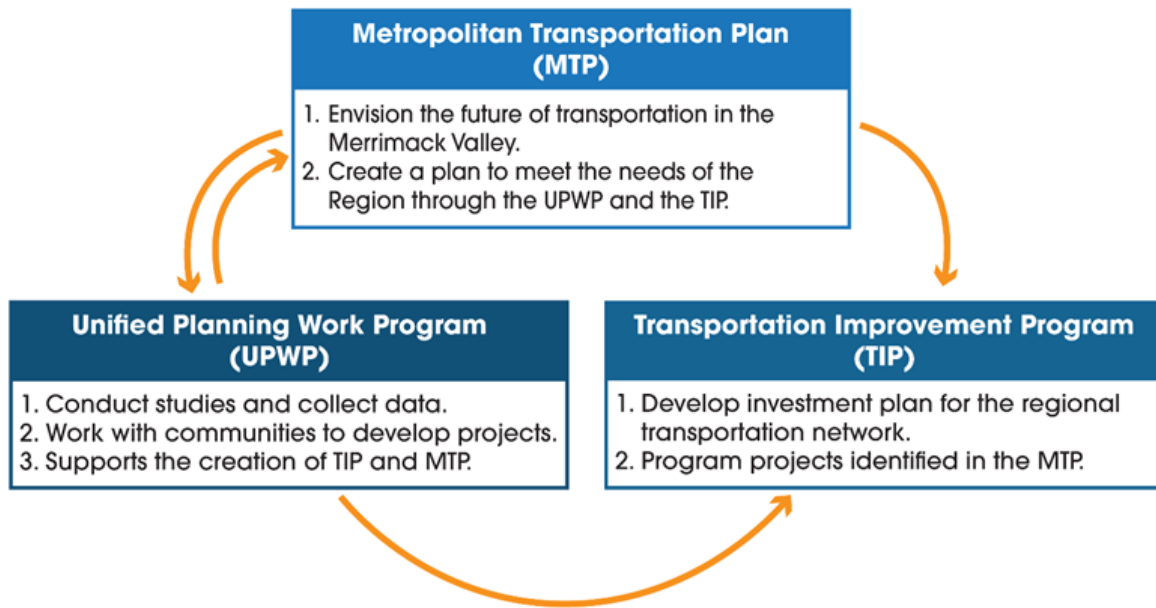
Municipal Information Mapping Access Program (MIMAP)

MVPC continues to expand the functionality of MIMAP to help municipal staff access critical GIS data through the addition of an ever expanding layer catalog. This layer catalog includes regional, state, and federal GIS layers that can be added to a community's already robust GIS application. MVPC GIS staff will continue to add data to this catalog and provide existing functionality to the application. Work has also started on moving to the next generation MIMAP application. This update will continue to add functionality for end users and take advantage of newer technologies.

Transportation Program

3C Planning

Each year, MVPC transportation staff facilitate the Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Continuing, Comprehensive, and Cooperative (3C) Federal Aid Transportation Planning Process. This process maintains the region’s eligibility to program federal aid in support of transportation capital projects. To support this process, staff prepare the Metropolitan Transportation Plan every five years (as described on page 13) a work program for the year, and the region’s Transportation Improvement Program. The table and graphic below describes these documents.



Document	Purpose	Horizon	Timing
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	Establishes the annual work program for the MVMPO staff, including studies and tasks that support member communities.	One Year	Annually, endorsed in spring
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Programs federal and state aid funding for specific transportation projects.	Five Years	Annually, endorsed in spring
Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	Establishes the long-range vision for a region, including goals and objectives. Identifies projects and strategies to realize the vision.	Twenty to Twenty-Five Years	Updated every four to five years, depending on current surface transportation legislation; typically endorsed in summer.
Public Participation Plan (PPP)	Establishes standards and policies for engaging communities in the 3C transportation planning process.	Continuous	Approximately every five years

Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is highly anticipated each year. This document is essentially the region's capital plan for federal aid. Each year the MVMPO prepares and approves a list of projects that are candidates to receive federal aid over a five-year period. Projects must be programmed on the TIP to receive federal aid. The TIP programs federal aid from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

On the highway side, the TIP contains two primary types of federal aid projects: regional projects and statewide projects. Regional projects are typically developed by member communities in coordination with MVMPO staff and MassDOT and are typically confined to a single municipality. These projects tend to benefit residents, employees, and visitors who travel through the specific municipality. By contrast, statewide projects tend to be greater in geographic scope and/or magnitude of benefit in that they support statewide mobility or satisfy interests and goals of the state.

On the transit side, the TIP contains both capital and operating support for the region's transit authority (MeVa). Capital projects include a range of project-types, including but not limited to replacing rolling stock, preventative maintenance, and upgrading facilities. Operating projects include subsidy for operations and short-range planning support.

Federal aid projects are supported by two types of federal aid funding: apportioned aid and discretionary aid. Federal surface transportation legislation develops programs and associated funding ceilings to allow states and regional governments to obligate the use of federal funds for their projects. Funds that are *apportioned* are approved by congress and divvyed up to states by program. In Massachusetts, regional funds are further broken up by formula. Funds that are *discretionary* are available to recipients as warranted by federal approval, most typically through competitive grant programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration.

What projects were included in the FY23-27 TIP?

- Reconstruction of Route 1 in Salisbury (\$19,266,283 in FY 2023-2024)
- Corridor Improvements on Route 114 between Waverly Road and Willow/Mill Street (\$34,083,859 in FY2024-2027)
- Intersection Improvements at Burnham Road and Riverside Drive (\$2,063,889 in FY 2024)
- Riverwalk Connector to the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail (\$2,448,760 in FY2027)
- Roadway Reconstruction on North Avenue from Main Street to Plaistow New Hampshire (\$5,798,257 in FY 2027)
- Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and Merrimack Street (\$2,870,513 in FY 2027)



Amesbury Riverwalk Connector Project Vicinity



Riverside Drive and Burnham Road in Methuen

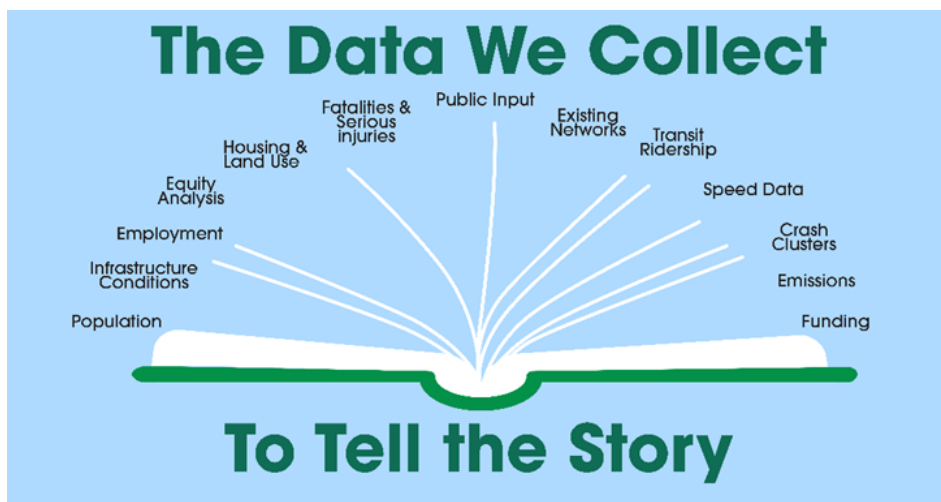
Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Every five years, the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission's Metropolitan Planning Organization staff update the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This 25-year horizon plan prioritizes projects as potential candidates for federal funding. The document is financially constrained, meaning it only includes projects that could be afforded within the region's reasonably anticipated federal aid funding envelope. Projects included in the region's MTP may be programmed in future Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) cycles for federal aid funding.

Over the past year, MVMPO staff have worked to gather insight, opinions, and data about the region's vision and goals. Staff attended several community events, including a SALSA event in Lawrence, Farmer's Markets in Andover and Haverhill, and Methuen's National Night Out. Staff also invited opportunities for virtual engagement, holding an online kick-off in June. Between October and January, staff also met with various municipal staff and community organizations.



These conversations, tied with the data we collect (noted in the figure below), will shape a regional vision for mobility, which the MVMPO Board will review and endorse in September of 2023.



Lawrence Pa'Lante and Bennington Triangle

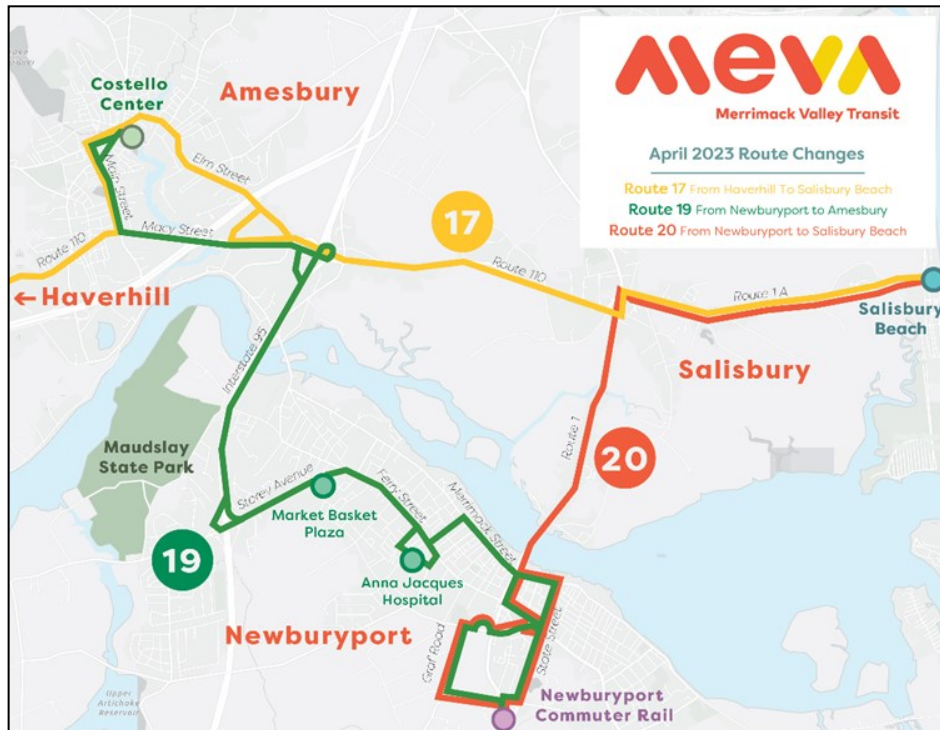
One of the major highlights of MVPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach cycle was supporting Groundwork Lawrence's Pa'Lante Project at Bennington Triangle. The triangle—once an asphalt parking area topping buried storage tanks—was transformed into a pop-up park that includes street trees, planters, benches, and a whole lot of color! The park combats urban heat island effect and provides the neighborhood's community a vibrant place to meet, mingle, and relax. MVPC's role in the project included advocating for better pedestrian and bicycle access in Lawrence and cultivating several design precedents for the site. The MVPC also tabled an opening event on October 15 to share information about the Commission and its planning processes, including the MTP. The success of the project demonstrates the need to view mobility assets as community assets. The use and design of public space have large, tangible impacts on communities. In coming years, MVPC will look to build upon this success to support further placemaking opportunities.



Bennington Triangle Pocket Park

MeVa

MVPC has continued its strong partnership with MeVa, the regional transit authority, by assisting with short-term planning projects, such as automatic passenger counter validation, and long-term efforts, such as bus stop planning. The former is incredibly important as MeVa has shifted to a fare free ridership model. Without fare collection services, devices must be installed to count passengers to comply with federal reporting requirements. The latter effort will help MeVa identify locations of suggested boarding and alighting—as well as the placement of highly anticipated signage. In some cases, new bus shelters are also anticipated. Beyond these efforts, MVPC assists MeVa in programming transit funding through the region’s TIP process, ranging between \$7.7 million in FY26 and \$29.7 million in FY24.



MeVa Bus Route Map

Safe Streets

Each year, MVPC invests substantially in efforts to improve regional roadway safety. This past year, MVPC’s Transportation and GIS teams collaborated to develop a list of the region’s top 100 intersection crash locations. The list, based on state data from 2018-2020, informs work plan programming for studies and initiatives like Road Safety Audits (RSAs) and project scoring for funding. It differs from MassDOT’s top crash clusters in that it assigns greater weight to intersections with severe or fatal crash outcomes.

Review of these intersections informed MVPC’s Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant application. The SS4A program supports the development of comprehensive safety action plans, which document the location of intersections and corridors that have either had severe crash outcomes or are likely to have severe outcomes based on their design. Action plans include strategies and projects to improve outcomes and also document policymakers’ intent to significantly reduce severe and fatal crashes. MVPC partnered with its neighboring regional planning agency, the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, to submit an application for funding. The joint application was awarded \$375,233 with a \$93,808 award from MassDOT for action plan development in FY24. Once completed, municipal partners and the region itself may directly apply for implementation funds in future SS4A funding cycles to realize goals documented in the action plan.

Over the past year, MVPC completed two Road Safety Audits (RSA) efforts to prepare data for reporting. MVPC Staff brought together stakeholders from Lawrence to audit the intersection of Haverhill Street and Lawrence Street in Lawrence. The audit identified missing and inoperative pedestrian signals at the intersection and noted enhancements that would improve pedestrian safety.

In Haverhill, MVPC staff worked with city officials and MassDOT to audit two intersections along Main Street at Primrose Street and Marsh Avenue. The audit team identified courtesy crashes as the main safety concern for drivers exiting the China King Super Buffet parking lot. The audit team also identified pedestrian safety concerns at the crosswalks of Marsh Avenue and Main Street. The city has completed designs for Complete Streets funding to address these safety issues.



MVPC Transportation Staff and MassDOT at the Haverhill, Main Street RSA

Comfortable Bicycling

MVPC recently amended its FY223-27 Transportation Improvement Program to add earmarked design funds for the Border to Boston Trail (B2B). MVPC has worked with key regional partners, such as the Coastal Trails Coalition and the Essex National Heritage Commission, to advocate for trail funding, and thanks to Representative Moulton, funding has been included in Congress' \$1.5 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation, which will help fund the design and development of unfinished sections of the trail.

The B2B is an important interregional bicycle and pedestrian facility that will connect Boston to the New Hampshire State line through a combination of on- and off-road segments. Virtually all of the off-road sections of the trail do or will follow the former Newburyport Railroad Right of Way. Last year, the region celebrated the completion of Salisbury's Eastern Marsh Trail that now makes the connection between New Hampshire and the Merrimack River. Combined with Newburyport's Clipper City Rail Trail, the region now has 7.3 miles of the B2B open.

Next up is a 5.7-mile section of the trail now under design that will extend from Georgetown Road in Boxford north through the Town of Georgetown and end in Byfield Village in Newbury. Boxford will use the additional funding to design the trail between Georgetown Road and the Topsfield Linear Common Trail, while in Newbury the funds will help design a section of the boardwalk near Byfield Village.



Bicyclists enjoying the comfort of the shared-use path

*2022 MVPC Accomplishments, Commissioners,
Staff and Funding Partners*



2022 MVPC Accomplishments

2022 MVPC Accomplishments							
	Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	Projects	
AMESBURY	•		•			Updated Route 51 MVRTA map for Amesbury (per request of MVRTA and Mayor Gove)	
	•					Provided letter of support for City of Amesbury MassTrails grant application "Amesbury Carriage town Connector"	
	•					Discussed planning for safer pedestrian crossings at Route 110 and at Elm Street with City.	
	•					Discussed planning for safer pedestrian crossing at Rocky Hill Road	
		•				Conducted Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance	
		•				Conducted invasive pepperweed and phragmites management (mapping, pulling and spraying)	
		•				Created Greenhouse Gas Inventory Creation for clean energy planning	
		•				Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)	
		•				Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	
		•				Provided REPA ammendment to DOER to fund amesbury greenhouse gas inventory creation	
		•				Conducted Brownfields "roadshow" for project identification	
			•			Fulfilled Data Request for East End Neighborhood Smart Growth Project	
			•			Met with Conservation Agent to discuss MIMAP and Open Space datasets	
			•			Provided MVPC collected sidewalk data to DPW Director for plan development	
			•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer	
			•			Maintained and updated map service for City's permit tracking software	
			•			Reviewed Amesbury Pavement Management data at request of DPW Director	
			•			Assisted with Amesbury Open Space update with creation of open space data updates.	
	ANDOVER				•		Participated in the EDA-funded Amesbury's Lower Mill Yard Economic Development Plan Committee
					•		Coordinated meetings with local employers--Munters, ARC Technologies, and iMarc
•						Performed Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach at Andover Farmers Market	
•						Performed Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach at Andover Citizen Center	
•						Performed turning movement counts at Main St/Elm St/Prospect St	
		•		•		Attended the Andover Climate Summit	
		•				Conducted Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance	
		•				Taught Keeping Water Clean 5th grade water quality teaching program	
		•				Engaged in REPA regional electric vehicle planning project	
		•				Revised municipal Bylaw language ifor EEA climate resiliency	
			•			Assisted with transition to new asset management software (MaintStar)	
			•			Work to integrate community's hosted map services in MIMAP	
			•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer	
			•			Maintain map service for Town's permit tracking software	
				•		Coordinated meetings with local employers--Straumann Manufacturing, Oncorus	
BOXFORD	•					Provided letter of support for Boxford MassTrails grant application for a section of trail connecting trails systems including the Border to Boston trail	
	•					Participated in Border to Boston earmark funding announcement	
	•					Coordinated with MassDOT on earmark logistics relevant to the Border to Boston Trail	
		•				Assisted with MS4 annual requirements, including Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance	
		•				Reviewed and revised Boxford Open Space and Recreation Plan update	
		•				Engaged in REPA regional electric vehicle planning project	
		•				Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	
		•				Bylaw language implimentation for EEA climate resiliency	
			•			Completed FY22 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance	
			•			Assisted with Culvert Inspection data collection	
			•			Met with DPW staff to discuss street sign collection and guard rail collection	
			•			Implemented changes to the stormwater inspection app based on feedback from DPW	
			•			Meet to discuss use of drones for topographic survey	
			•			Integrated Culvert Inventory data into system as received from consultant	
			•			Updated ownership information in MIMAP per Assessor department request	
		•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer		

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

					Projects
Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	
					Maintained Stormwater Inspection Mobile Application
					Completed FY23 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
					Assist with Boxford Open Space Update by updating open space data and preparing maps
GEORGETOWN					Coordinated and held Georgetown Branch Trail Working Group meeting
					Assistance with MS4 annual requirements, including annual report compilation and Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
					Provided letter of support for Georgetown MVP Grant Application "Library Street Park & Ride Stormwater Control"
					Provided Letter of Support and application writing assistance for DEP 604(b) grant (Rock and Pentucket Ponds Watershed-based plan)
					Assisted with Green Communities annual report assistance
					Revised Bylaw language for EEA climate resiliency
					Engaged in REPA regional electric vehicle planning project
					Assisted with mapping of floodplain for National Avenue property
					Provide bridge list to Georgetown Town Administrator
					Completed FY23 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
					Updated MIMAP with new Property Record Cards
					Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
					Maintained Stormwater Inspector Mobile Application
GROVELAND					Created service area map of MeVa's Ring and Ride service for Groveland
					Identified bus stop locations in Groveland
					Conducted Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
					Engaged in REPA regional electric vehicle planning project
					Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
					Created a Groveland Sewer System Map
					Completed FY22 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
					Created a public input survey for Groveland's new municipal website
					Provide municipal light data to consultant for an impact/load calculation study
					Update Groveland Municipal Light mobile app with requested changes
					Created a map showing origins and destinations on Groveland to establish MVRTA Fixed Route Service to the Town
					Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
					Maintained water system mobile application
				Maintained open space and trails mobile application	
				Maintained Groveland Municipal Light District mobile application	
				Maintained Stormwater Mobile Application including incorporating requested changes	
HAVERHILL					Began data collection for Road Safety Audit at Main Street and Primrose/Marsh
					Performed Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach at Haverhill Farmers Market
					Helped with Haverhill green communities annual report revisions
					Completed Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
					Co-hosted Annual Merrimack River Water Quality Roundtable event
					Entered data for Green Communities Spring Competitive Grant
					Meetings and correspondence with Haverhill representatives to discuss Brownfields site eligibility
					Conducted Brownfields "roadshow" for project identification
					Engaged in regional Hazard mitigation plan update
					Engaged in REPA regional electric vehicle planning project
					Provided MaintStar CMMS data to city after transfer of services to new vendor
					Coordinated meetings with local employers--Spruce Environmental & Coastal Industries
					EforAll Haverhill Project was awarded full funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. MVPC guided this project through the process as the region's EDD
				Organized and Conducted Haverhill Housing Forum	
				Serve on the City's Affordable Housing Committee	

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

					Projects
					Projects
Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	
LAWRENCE					• Provided Groundwork Lawrence Letter of Support for land use site assessment grant at Bennington and Lawrence Street
					• Finalized Road Safety Report for the intersection of Manchester Street and Broadway and submitted to MassDOT
					• Worked with City of Lawrence implementation of Complete Streets program
					• Presented Safe Routes to School Award with Elecia Miller
					• Performed Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach at Lawrence SALSA event
					• Worked with Groundwork Lawrence on Bennington Triangle Project, including planning, presentation, data collection memo and implementation
					• Worked on Lawrence P'alante Project Air Quality Data
					• Lawrence P'alante Project - Create Outreach Board
					• Completed Road Safety Audit data collection for Hampshire Street and Center Street
					• Completed Road Safety Audit data collection for Merrimack Street and Parker Street
					• Held Safe Routes to School meeting with School Department and Police Department
					• Provided technical assistance on e-Bike pilot
					• Held initial meeting regarding Lawrence Street and Haverhill Street Road Safety Audit
					• Developed Lawrence Healthy Active Living Working Group food assessment report and storymap
					• Prepared a sidewalk condition update
					• Completed stormwater bylaw review for MS4 year four compliance
					• Assisted with Green Communities Annual Report
					• Completed Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan BRIC Procurement
					• Met with Lawrence representatives to discuss Brownfields site eligibility
					• Conducted Brownfields "roadshow" for project identification
					• Assisted with green communities competitive grant application
					• Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
					• Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
					• Completed FY22 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
					• Held a MIMAP training in Lawrence
					• Set up Groundwork Lawrence with access to Lawrence Food in MIMAP (Regional)
					• Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
					• Set up Lawrence downtown walking tour
					• Contracted with the Lawrence Partnership to create a "How to Start a Business Guide" which sits at WeAreMV.com
					• Serve on the partnership committee for the Broadway-Essex TDI District
MERRIMAC					• Developed intersection study draft for Grove and Woodland
					• Completed stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
					• Assisted with Green Communities Annual Report Assistance
					• Taught Keeping water clean 5th grade water quality teaching program
					• Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
					• Established and maintained a Document Intake Management System Merrimac using Technology
					• Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
					• Met to discuss implementation of a Merrimac Municipal Light Mobile Application
METHUEN					• Participated in MassDOT Coordination related to Burnham Road/Riverside Drive Intersection
					• Assisted review of Oakland Avenue Bridge replacement over Metheun Rail Trail
					• Completed Road Safety Audit at the intersection of East Street/Prospect Street/Milk Street
					• Completed Merrimack Street Complete Streets Study
					• Completed Woodland and Elm data collection
					• Completed Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
					• Conducted Brownfields roadshow for project identification
					• Worked on Spicket river 604b water quality project
					• Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
					• Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
				• Created Tax Title layer for City Treasurer to display in MIMAP	

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

2022 MVPC Accomplishments						
	Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	Projects
			•			Completed FY22 assessor database update - submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
			•	•		Created a Downtown Investment Guide (DIG) for Methuen
			•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
NEWBURY	•					Provided letter of support for Newbury MassTrails grant application "Parker St. Section of Clipper City Rail Trail"
	•					Developed and edited transportation section of Newbury Master Plan
	•					Took initial counts of Lakin Road and vicinity for requested Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion application
	•					Facilitated coordination with MassDOT relevant to Border to Boston Trail
		•				Sampled Plum Island beach for microplastic presence and abundance
		•				Sampled surface waters in the Little River for microplastics presence and abundance
		•				Mapped areas of marsh die-off caused by sea level rise
		•				Conducted invasive pepperweed and phragmites management (mapping, pulling and spraying)
		•				Mapped large stands of marsh wrack which is accumulating and degrading the marsh
		•				Hosted meeting between Newbury, DEP, and Triton School superintendent to facilitate Newbury's Green Community designation process
		•				Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
		•				Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
		•				Assisted with Newbury's Green Community designation, including energy audit scheduling with regional school district
	•	•	•	•		Reviewed Newbury Masterplan and provided comments on potential update
			•			Package all Newbury Parcel Maps from 2010 through 2016 & provided to Assessor
			•			Created an MBTA Communities Map for use by the Planning Dept.
			•			Completed FY23 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
		•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer	
		•			Maintained Townwide Stormwater Mobile Application	
NEWBURYPORT	•					Prepared Three Roads intersection memo for city review
	•					Completed Three Roads intersection alternatives analysis
	•					Prepared Turkey Hill Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion (HCVE) application
	•					Continued coordination with MassDOT on revised roundabout, sidepath for Three Roads intersection
	•	•		•		Drafted MVPC Newburyport Memorandum of Understanding for grant administration services for EDA EAA waterfront bulkhead project
		•				Provided letter of support for City of Newburyport MVP Action Grant application "Climate Resilient Newburyport: Community Collaboration, Capacity Building and Catalyst Project."
		•				Completed Hazard Mitigation Draft, hosted listening session for Newburyport's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, and submitted plan to MEMA for review
		•				Sampled surface waters in the lower Merrimack River for microplastics presence and abundance
		•				Completed Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
		•				Submitted Newburyport HMP to FEMA for final review and conducted subsequent revisions
		•				Conducted invasive pepperweed and phragmites management (mapping, pulling and spraying)
		•				Mapped large stands of marsh wrack which is accumulating and degrading the marsh
		•				Attended MRBA dredge project "Sand Breaking" for Reservation Terrace Beach
		•				Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
			•			Updated Newburyport MIMAP with revised zoning data
			•			Implemented changes to the City's mobile tree application at the request of the tree warden.
			•			Assisted with city-wide valve turning water project by working with City and outside consultants
			•			Maintained City's Water Quality Monitoring Application
			•			Posted Historic District Zone to MIMAP
			•			Made modifications to Stormwater app to facilitate catch basin cleaning
			•			Worked with DPS staff to implement changes with Verizon Fleet tracking software
		•			Completed FY22 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance	
		•			Working with Newburyport Resiliency Committee on implementing an educational Storymap	
		•			Completed FY23 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance	
		•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer	

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

2022 MVPC Accomplishments						
	Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	Projects
NORTH ANDOVER			•			Maintained fat, oil, grease (FOG) and tree inspector mobile application
			•			Maintained Stormwater Mobile Application
			•			Maintained sewer system mobile application for mainland and Plum Island
			•			Maintained water system mobile application
			•			Maintained water quality monitoring mobile application
			•			Maintained VerizonFleet vehicle GPS for DPS vehicles and snow contractor vehicles
			•			Post Newburyport Sea Level Rise Layers to MIMAP
				•		Assisted Newburyport with securing EDA funding for the waterfront bulkhead project
				•		Organized meeting with the Mayor's office and Mark Richey Woodworking
				•		Organized a Newburyport Downtown Walking Tour for MVPC Staff
NORTH ANDOVER		•				Provided letter of support for Town of North Andover MVP Action Grant application "Climate Resilient Forestry Master Plan"
		•				Completed Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
		•				Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
		•				Revised bylaw language for EEA climate resiliency
			•			Updated MIMAP with zoning data request
			•			Met with North Andover to discuss MVPC technology offerings
			•			Provide Parcel Shapefile for use in Nearmap
			•	•		Made miscellaneous parcel updates via assessing department request
			•			Provided technical assistance in creation of North Andover Economic Development Website
			•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
ROWLEY				•		Create North Andover MIMAP demo site to upgrade current version to Geocortex 5
				•		Continued implementation of the Targeted Economic Development Strategy
		•				Updated Rowley Floodplain bylaw which was approved by DCR
		•				Mapped areas of marsh die-off caused by sea level rise at Rough Meadows
		•				Sampled surface waters in the Rowley River for microplastics presence and abundance
		•				Assisted with MS4 annual requirements, including annual report compilation and Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
		•				Conducted invasive pepperweed and phragmites management (mapping, pulling and spraying)
		•				Conducted an eelgrass restoration pilot project at Middle Ground
		•				Mapped areas where large stands of marsh wrack is accumulating and degrading the marsh
		•				Taught Keeping Water Clean 5th grade water quality teaching program
ROWLEY		•				Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
		•				Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
			•			Finalized Rowley Open Space map set
			•			Updated to Rowley Municipal Light Application
			•			Completed FY23 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
			•			Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
			•			Maintained Stormwater Mobile Application
			•			Maintained Rowley Electric Light mobile application
			•			Create Large Format Rowley Municipal Light Circuit Map (LTA)
		•				Conducted Salisbury marsh site visit and strategy design for DEP appeal of RDA for Phragmites management; DEP, Salisbury Conservation Agent, MVPC
	•				Sampled two beaches in Salisbury (Public Beach & State Reservation) to assess microplastic presence and abundance	
	•				Sampled surface waters in the lower Merrimack River to assess microplastic presence and abundance	
	•				Completed Stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance	
	•				Conducted invasive pepperweed and phragmites management (mapping, pulling and spraying)	
	•				Mapped areas of marsh die-off caused by sea level rise along the Salisbury marsh	
	•				Assisted with Green Communities Annual Report writing	
	•				Mapped areas where large stands of marsh wrack is accumulating and degrading the marsh	
	•				Assisted with Salisbury green community competitive grant application	

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

2022 MVPC Accomplishments					
Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	Projects
SALISBURY					Assisted with revising Salisbury wetland and stormwater bylaws
					Engaged in Regional Electric Vehicle planning project (REPA)
					Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
					Created Salisbury Mooring Data layer in MIMAP for management and enforcement of boats
					Completed FY20-FY22 parcel update - produced official maps and submitted data to the State for level 3 parcel compliance
					Reviewed Electronic Submission plans for new developments per town's bylaw requirements
					Made revisions Merrimack River Mooring Mapping Project data
					Created a water system map for use by water department
					Assisted community in transition of water system data from Pennichuck Water to Town - Town to take over management of the data
					Held MIMAP training in Salisbury
					Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
					Maintained Salisbury DPW utilities applications including, water, sewer, and stormwater
					Explored a potential EDA Eligible Project with Salisbury Economic Development Stakeholders. Ultimately did not apply for funding.
WEST NEWBURY					Reviewed Route 113/Page School Road Safety Audit (RSA) recommendations
					Reviewed draft letter from selectment to MassDOT on Rocks Village Bridge and facilitated coordination
					Conducted stormwater Bylaw Review for MS4 year 4 compliance
					Assisted in MS4 Annual Reporting assistance
					Provided green communities annual report assistance
					Engaged in Regional Electrical Vehicle planning project (REPA)
					Engaged in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
					Completed and LTA request for Page School Property via request from Assessor
					Updated trail data to remove trails on private property. Made minor adjustments to data based on Town input
					Completed and LTA request for Brown Spring Farm Conservation Restriction
					Created a Best Management Practices Map and a map of a Dog Park
					Held a MIMAP training in West Newbury
					Continued to update and maintain community's MIMAP data viewer
					Revised Dog Park Map with requested updates
					Implemented Open Space and Conservation Restriction data layer updates at Town's request
				Continued to update and maintain communities MIMAP data viewer	
				Maintained Stormwater Mobile Application	
SALEM					Met with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to discuss implementation of Cartegraph OMS
					Drafted, edited, and facilitated endorsement for amendments to the FFY 2022-2022 Transportation Improvement Program
					Attended MARPA funding meeting
					Developed and presented nonmotorist severe outcome crash map
					Assessed and validated MassDOT crash data/performance measures (Safety)
					Completed quarterly ADA review for Merrimack Valley Transit
					Continued pavement management program
					Developed online comment tool for public participation
					Prepared top 100 crash list 2016-2020
					Prepared, tested and executed ATR Data Collection
					Provided comments on MassDOT/EOPSS 2023 Safety Targets (Safety)
					Completed Automatic Passenger Counter Verifications for Merrimack Valley Transit
					Developed Merrimack Valley Transit fare equity map
					Outlined items in the Certification Action Plan (Public Participation/Outreach)
					Facilitated the drafting and endorsement of the FFY2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
					Performed Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach in various forums
					Updated crash clusters/top 100 crash intersections (Safety)
				Added schools & colleges to transportation desktop application	

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

2022 MVPC Accomplishments					
Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	Projects
	•				Provided City of Newburyport, Newbury, Parker River Wildlife Refuge with letter of support for FLAP grant (study of PI turnpike elevation for climate change resilience)
	•				Drafted and facilitated endorsement of annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
	•				Worked on/compiled Active Transportation Plan data
	•				Completed quarterly ADA Review for Merrimack Valley Transit
	•				Supported Merrimack Valley Transit mapping needs
	•				Developed and executed joint procurement for rock salt
	•				Served as lead applicant for Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant (supported by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments); executed MOUs with each member community
	•				Applied successfully for Safety - USDOT Safe Streets and Roads discretionary grants
	•				Developed and executed Metropolitan Transportation Plan Questionnaire
	•				Reviewed Data Axle info on major employers in the region for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
	•				Facilitated Regional Coordinating Council meeting
	•				Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (currently in data collection phase)
	•				Performed Merrimack Valley Transit National Transit Database Counts
	•				Performed freight planning outreach for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
		•			Attended Governor Baker's Green Community Competitive Grant Fall Application Round announcement
		•			Convened boards of health and wastewater treatment plants along the Merrimack River to discuss new legislation and gauge Healthy Community's grant interest
		•			Submitted Healthy Communities Grant Application
		•			Presented at EPA "Soak Up the Rain" webinar on MS4 related activities
		•			Presented to Town Planners on Brownfields program in conjunction with consultant
		•			Present at statewide stormwater collaborative on MS4 work
		•			Merrimack River Roundtable meeting (MassBays)
		•			UNH MP Collaboration
		•			Participate in PIE Rivers meetings
		•			Green Communities - regional work on Net Zero, EV etc.
		•			Monthly DEP Reporting
		•			Regional HMP Planning
		•			Attend Brownfields New England Summit
		•			Configured Teams Backup Server - Installed and configured Veeam Backup Solution
		•			Created a map depicting the MBTA Communities potential development areas- Multi-Family Zoning Request
		•			Supported the Regional Roundtable efforts through creation of an online web resource for the presentation
		•			Renewed Sonicwall Support for MVPC firewall to maintain security
		•			Completed Route 51 MVRTA Update per MVRTA request
		•			Created a web based experience for February Regional Round Table with Legislative Delegation and Mayors
		•			Completed migration of Early Alert Tool to MVPC server and completed configuration of email notifications. Developed an MVPC web page to show tool
		•			Migrated data and projects to MS Teams environment
		•			Created a Bylaw Review Project Map for the Environmental Program
		•			Developed a public input form for MVPC Transportation webpage
		•			Prepared Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Maps
		•			Researched options to improve MIMAP Performance through increase of processing cores
		•			Install VaultPress on WeAreMV to provide automated backup of web site
		•			Upgraded AWS Server to improve MIMAP performance
		•			Produced MVRTA Fare Equity Maps for transportation program
		•			Processed Drone Imagery for Eight Towns in the Great Marsh for use in mobile applications
		•			MassDep MS4 grant - created a Construction Site Inspection Application
		•			Worked with Community & Economic Development Program to produce MIMAP Training Video for MBTA Communities
		•			Updated MVRTA Route Maps based on MVRTA input
		•			Transferred the CSO Early Alert Tool to MVPC hosted server

2022 MVPC Accomplishments

Community	Transportation	Environment	GIS	Comm & Econ Dev	Projects
			•		Revise Trails Data to address trails on private property
			•		Provided hydrant data to North Shore E911
	•	•			Assisted Environmental Program with MS4 Website Update with Report
		•			Create a Safe Streets for All Locus Map for use in grant submittal
•		•			Worked on Housing Production Plan website page updates
		•	•		Conducted updates to Subsidized Housing Inventory layer
		•			Prepare MeVa Route System and Title VI Map Updates
		•			MBTA Communities New Guidance Update
		•			Assist with Hazard Mitigation Plan
		•			Provide Transportation Program data for Active Transportation Plan
			•		MVED awarded Regional Economic Development Organization designation and funding from the MA Office of Business Development
			•		Provided letter of support for MIT EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant application to MassHire
			•		MBTA Communities compliance assistance
			•		Conducted a workforce survey of large employers in partnership with the MassHire Workforce Board
		•	•		Maintained available property database on MVPC Data Portal and WeAreMV.com
			•		Completed COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Plan
			•		Launched Housing Production Plan update project in all 15 cities and towns
			•		Secured funding from the Eastern Bank Foundation to continue and enhance the MV Strong program

2022 Commissioners



Amesbury

Robert Laplante, Secretary
Angela Cleveland, Alternate



Andover

Lisa Schwarz



Boxford

Jim Barnes, Treasurer



Georgetown

John Cashell



Groveland

Annie Schindler
Rebecca Oldham, Alternate



Haverhill

Christopher Sicuranza
William Pillsbury, Alternate



Lawrence

Dan McCarthy



Merrimac

Bob Bender



Methuen

Kathleen Colwell
Brian Keating, Alternate



Newbury

Martha Taylor
Larry Murphy, Alternate



Newburyport

Rick Taintor, Vice Chairman



North Andover

Rick Byers



Rowley

Bob Snow, Chairman
Joe Perry, Alternate



Salisbury

Lou Masiello
Jerry Klima, Alternate



West Newbury

Brian Murphy



Rep-at-Large

Jessica Martinez
Heather McMann, Alternate

2022 MVPC Staff



Joseph Barmashi
GIS Technician



Mary Kay Beninati
Sr. Transportation Planner



Ian Burns
Economic Development
Specialist



Tony Collins
Transportation Planner



Jen Dunlap
Finance Director &
HR Coordinator



Cece Gerstenbacher
Environmental
Program Coordinator



Betsy Goodrich
Sr. Transportation Planner



Lauren Keisling
Community Planner



Aaron A. Hume
GIS Technician



Anthony Komornick
Transportation
Program Manager



Nancy Lavalley
Office Administrator



Steve Lopez, GISP
GIS Program Manager



Mikayla Minor
GIS Analyst



Hanna Mogensen
Coastal Resource Planner



Daniel Ovalle
Field Services Specialist



Peter Phippen
Coastal Coordinator



Kayla Rennie
Community & Economic
Development Planner



Nate Robertson
Community & Economic
Development Program
Manager



Jim Terlizzi
Transportation Engineer



Jerrard Whitten
Executive Director

2022 Funding Partners

Federal

EDA - Economic Development Administration
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
FHWA - Federal Highway Administration
FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Administration
FTA - Federal Transit Administration
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
USDOT - U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

State

CZM - Coastal Zone Management
DEP - Department of Environmental Protection
DHCD - Department of Housing and Community Development
DMF - Division of Marine Fisheries
DOER - Department of Energy Resources
EOAF - Executive Office of Administration and Finance
EOHED - Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
EOEEA - Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
EOTSS - Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
MassDOT - Massachusetts Department of Transportation
MEMA - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Local

MVRTA - Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority

Non-Profit

ECCF - Essex County Community Foundation
Greenscapes NorthShore
Lawrence Partnership
National Wildlife Federation



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[Back Cover Photo: Merrimack River, Amesbury, MA](#)

The Merrimack River looking from the Lowell Boat shop in Amesbury.

